



Tiny but Mighty

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Donated to Center for Healing & Hope in 2021 by the Maple City IWW GDC Labor Union Local #7, the tiny free pantry was provided as a way to make a small but meaningful impact for those experiencing food insecurity. The best way to explain the utilization of the pantry is to describe it as a little free library, but instead of books it's filled with food and hygiene products. Community members are encouraged to leave what they can, and take what they need. It is always unlocked, and located outside of our building, making it accessible at all hours.



Assembly Mennonite Church members stop by to assess the pantry needs. It's looking pretty bare! We're thankful for their partnership in helping to stock it.

One way CHH has been able to keep the pantry stocked is through several "Pantry Partnerships" with businesses, organizations, churches, donors, and other groups from the community. I can assure anyone who is interested in stocking the pantry that their donation is going to good use. We see the pantry being utilized every day we're here, and we also know people are coming on the days we aren't. Beyond the general public accessing the pantry, it is made available to people who receive healthcare or immigrant services at CHH who are in need of food or hygiene items. The pantry supports our philosophy of caring for the whole person.

But what about The Window? What about Church Community Services? Can't people go there? YES! We appreciate all of the robust pantries in our community that are doing good work, and we regularly refer community members to those organizations. If and when people can't access those services, the tiny free pantry may be a supplement to provide that next meal for someone experiencing hardships. It may be a small solution to a large problem, but we believe every little bit helps.



Pantry Partners in 2023 include Genesis Products, Nuway Construction, Sunnyside Mennonite Church, Merino Law Firm, Purdue Extension/Elkhart County Extension Homemakers, Mark & Karen Kurtz, Humble Gifts from Goshen Christian Church, Assembly Mennonite Church, Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, Martin's Supermarket, Eighth Street Preschool, Maple City IWW GDC Labor Union Local #7, and several anonymous community members that drop off items. When there are no partnerships for the month, and the pantry is empty, Center for Healing & Hope will fill in the gaps using donations designated as "where needed most."

We are incredibly grateful for these partnerships, but even more appreciative are those in the community that have benefitted from this resource. A community member that uses the pantry said, "I work, but I don't even make enough money to cover my rent and bills. I really appreciate you doing this."

We echo that sentiment, we really appreciate YOU doing this! Thank you for joining Center for Healing & Hope in meeting needs in the community!

To become a Pantry Partner with Center for Healing & Hope send an email to info@chhclinics.org or call 574-534-4744.

Tune in next month for another story!

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